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ABSTRACT

This report summarizes information from 43 States and from the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; and from 55 local school districts. The majority of the information in the report was provided by State school boards associations and NSBA Direct Affiliate districts. Survey results indicate that (1) nationwide, at both the State and school district levels, schools have been cooperative with requests to constrain energy use and willing to institute voluntary measures to conserve energy; (2) the energy crisis has had different effects on schools in different regions of the country, and shortages of fuel for buses (and escalating prices for available fuel) are nationwide; (3) with few exceptions, the emphasis in schools has been on developing short-range methods to cope with fuel shortages; and (4) more often than not, respondents discussed energy conservation measures, but failed to discuss the character of actual energy shortages. State school boards association responses to the energy crisis vary. A few exercise active State leadership (Nebraska and New Jersey); most are cooperating with the State government agencies (Iowa and Michigan); some have chosen only to keep aware of the State situation (Alabama and Nevada). (Author/EA)

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NSBA Research Report 1973-3
Schools and the Energy Crisis

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Report number 1973-3

Schools and the energy crisis

Recognizing the impending importance of the energy crisis for schools, the National School Boards Association in mid-November launched a clearinghouse of information about the effects of the energy crisis upon the schools.

EA 005 937

A major activity has been to survey state school boards associations and a nationwide sample of NSBA Direct Affiliate school districts. State associations were asked these questions: Are schools currently affected by cutbacks of energy; if so, how? Will schools be affected this winter: if so, how? Are state or regional plans for conservation of energy by schools in the works? Who are the experts in your state who are monitoring the energy problem as it affects schools? Has your Association taken action, or does it plan to take action, with regard to the energy situation; if so, what? What actions do you recommend to local school districts? School districts were asked similar questions about the energy situation as it affects their district. In addition, a newspaper clipping service was retained to provide NSBA with reports of school district responses to the energy crisis across the nation.

This report summarizes information from 43 states and the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico; and 55 local school districts. Information in the report was provided by state school boards associations and NSBA Direct Affiliate districts unless otherwise indicated.

Schools and state agencies have been swift to respond to the energy crisis. Survey results prompt these observations:

1. Nationwide, at both the state and school district levels, schools have been cooperative with requests to constrain energy use, and willing to institute voluntary measures to conserve energy. Most frequently, schools have:

- lowered temperatures and turned off lights when rooms or sections of school buildings are not in use
- lowered temperatures and avoided unnecessary artificial lighting during the school day

- lowered temperatures more in large areas where students will be engaged in physical activity, such as gymnasiums, than in classrooms
- made the most use of natural daylight by opening window shades during the day, closing them at night, etc.
- increased the efficiency of school heating systems
- rescheduled night activities, such as athletic events, to daytime hours
- curtailed or eliminated field trips which required the use of school vehicles
- curtailed or eliminated afternoon, evening and weekend use of school buildings
- encouraged car pools for school staff
- discouraged students from driving to school
- encouraged students and staff to wear warmer clothing to school
- developed energy conservation curricula
- considered an extended Christmas vacation, or other changes in the school calendar
- prepared contingency plans in the event of emergency school closure
- established committees on energy conservation

2. The energy crisis has had different effects upon schools in different regions of the country. Reports from northern and eastern states, such as Maryland, Michigan, Illinois and Minnesota, communicate that fuel shortages were already a pressing problem during November. Reports from southern states, such as Texas, Georgia and Alabama, reflect concern during November about possible energy problems more than about real shortages. Shortages of fuel for buses (and escalating prices for available fuel) are nationwide, and these frequently cause more severe problems for school districts than heating fuel shortages.

3. With few exceptions, the emphasis in schools has been on developing short-range methods to cope with this winter's anticipated fuel shortages. Some states and local districts, however, have begun to form long-range energy commissions, committees, and task forces. A few others report that they intend to examine long-range policy after the immediate crisis subsides.

4. More often than not, respondents discussed energy conservation measures, but did not discuss the character of actual energy shortages. Several respondents expressed concern at not knowing the extent or duration of shortages they face. A minority of states and local districts, as in Rhode Island, are monitoring their fuel supplies and collecting statewide data.

State school boards association responses to the energy crisis vary: A few exercise active state leadership, as in Nebraska and New Jersey; most are cooperating with the state government agencies, such as in Iowa and Michigan; some have chosen only to keep aware of the state situation, as in Alabama and Nevada.

December 17, 1973

SCHOOLS AND THE ENERGY CRISIS

ALABAMA (information sent 11/26)

No major crisis yet. While Alabama expects some problems with school building heating, its major problem will be the procurement of fuel for school buses.

Alabama Association of School Boards, and the State Department of Education have considered statewide plans for energy conservation. Steps which have been taken are:

- lower classroom temperatures
- slower vehicle speeds
- tuning of all school vehicles

Bessemer City Schools, Bessemer, Alabama (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Information sent 11/27)

District has been notified by its gasoline supplier that it will be "several hundred gallons" short in December.

Assistant Superintendent for Business Affairs has instructed principals to suspend all field trips, athletic trips, etc., which are not essential. He is asking principals' compliance with the following:

- lower classroom temperatures
- keeping lights turned off when rooms are not in use; discontinuing maximum security lights at night
- discontinuing use of window air conditioning units on warm and mild days
- encouraging energy conservation in the school cafeteria

District staff is encouraging faculty, student and parental cooperation in all areas relating to energy conservation, such as car pools.

"Possibility of Board of Education action, but probably not."

ALASKA (information sent 11/26)

Alaska schools are being affected by cutbacks of energy, and will probably be further affected this winter.

State Department of Education has requested individual districts to work out their problems as they see fit; and will be available for help upon request. State Association of Alaska School Boards is recommending that each district "review their total operation and cut back on energy where they can. They should also seek alternatives to current operating procedures." According to the Association of Alaska School Boards, most districts have lowered classroom temperatures and have avoided the use of unnecessary lighting. One district has eliminated all evening programs and closed the swimming pool. Anchorage will be investigating alternative means to lighting for security checks.

ARKANSAS (telephone interview 11/29)

Schools are currently affected "to some degree." A few gasoline suppliers are cutting back 15 per cent. Schools using butane and propane will be supplied, but the price has tripled. New natural gas will be available to Arkansas in December or January.

A Governor's plan for conservation of energy is in the works.

Arkansas School Administrators Association has requested that schools receive priority.

Arkansas School Boards Association plans to make a resolution at January convention.

CALIFORNIA

Local districts fear they may run out of fuel after January 1 when many fuel contracts are scheduled for renewal. Schools thro ghout the state are already experiencing cutbacks in diesel fuel from suppliers. At least five counties - Fresno, Monterey, Sacramento, San Diego and San Joaquin - have had their bus fuel supplies reduced. Schools in El Dorado, Merced, Mono and Stanislaus counties are "alarmed" because they depend upon propane for heating, and that fuel is being cut back. ("Fuel Crisis May Shut Some Schools in 1974," by Jack McCurdy, Los Angeles Times, November 9, 1973.)

State Deputy School Superintendent has predicted that some California schools probably will be forced to close early next year, and others will curtail bus transportation unless the impact of the fuel shortage is averted.

Rim of the World Unified School District, Lake Arrowhead, California (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Information sent 11/28)

District expects to be 8,000 - 10,000 gallons short of diesel and gasoline fuels by year's end.

Is in the process of developing an energy conservation plan. Measures which are under consideration:

- slower vehicle speeds
- more efficient scheduling of vehicles
- personnel taking trucks home at night and over weekends to avoid theft of gasoline

County Superintendent of Schools has arranged for all superintendents and supervisors to meet with a representative of Standard Oil Company of California on December 11.

District will be making a decision "within the near future" on curtailment or elimination of educational field trips and high school athletics.

San Diego Unified School District (Materials dated November 15, 1973.)

District has a commitment with its supplier company for fuel oil to last until the end of this year; but has been unable to enter into contract because the company did not have a firm commitment from its supplier. The major problem is fuel for buses; although energy for lighting and heating are also a problem. District is also having difficulties with shortages, late deliveries and price increases in its paper products and food supplies.

Energy conservation proposals currently under consideration by board of education:

- make maximum use of daylight
- keeping lights turned off when rooms not in use; reducing lighting during the day where daylight is available; minimum exterior lighting and no inside lighting at night; night meetings curtailed
- elimination of night athletic events or any other activity that required night lighting of fields.
- lower classroom temperatures
- limit use of hot water (such as in showering facilities)
- heating systems turned off when classrooms and offices emptied, and completely shut down over weekends.

- lower vehicle speeds
- curtailment of mileage payments
- reduce meetings of teachers and principals where travel is required
- preferred parking for autos carrying four or more passengers; charge those not sharing rides but wanting parking.

Deputy Superintendent made a statement at the Energy Crisis Conference called by Senator John V. Tunney November 18, 1973, in which he stressed high priority for education. He also said that the district is developing course offerings in the area of energy conservation as a part of an expanded curriculum in ecology and environmental awareness.

Los Angeles City Schools, Los Angeles, California

"It is doubtful" that the district can secure additional fuel for the entire school year, according to the Superintendent. Major problems are diesel and gasoline fuel.

Board of Education has endorsed curtailment of all school trips other than athletic events, and has urged federal, state and local leaders to aid the district in meeting its energy needs.

Superintendent's energy conservation plan, which will be in effect for at least the months of November and December, includes:

- lower speed for school vehicles
- lower classroom temperatures
- no air conditioning until temperatures exceed 78 degrees
- no boilers on until outside temperatures drop below 70 degrees

("Some Districts Affected by Fuel Shortages," Spotlight, November 21, 1973, and "Energy Economy Strict in Schools," Los Angeles Herald-Examiner, November 16, 1973)

Sunnyvale School District, Sunnyvale, California (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

Energy conservation measures which have been suggested to the Board of Education:

- lower temperatures
- shorten the length of time buildings are heated
- reducing the amount of lighting

Parents may be asked to send a sweater to school with their children ("Sunnyvale Children May Add Sweaters For Classroom Wear," Palo Alto Times, November 16, 1973)

CONNECTICUT (information sent 12/8)

"At this point, our greatest need is for accurate information about what kind of fuel will be in short supply, how it will be rationed (?), and up-to-date information on regulations."

Education Commissioner initially proposed to close schools from December 14 to January 13; eliminate the usual vacation in April, to make up days lost during the winter; and add any necessary days in June and July to keep the 180-day school calendar.

State Board of Education has taken the following actions, effective December 21:

- schools are to close at 4 p.m. each day through April 15
- schools will be closed from December 21 to January 7
- schools cannot adopt a four-day week "as a regular practice, regardless of whether the length of the school day is lengthened or not"
- schools are not to request authorization for a shortened school year due to fuel shortage
- districts are to prepare a contingency plan for an extra week of vacation during February, and submit the plan to the Commissioner
- districts are to report their fuel consumption to the Commissioner semi-monthly
- schools are "recommended" to implement the energy-saving suggestions circulated by the Commissioner "to the fullest extent possible"

Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.'s greatest concern has been that the State Board of Education does not have the power to mandate calendar changes, and it has issued a position statement to this effect. Following the State Board action, CABE recommended local school districts to "adopt a course of action which is appropriate to meet the needs of your school district and responsive to the needs of the State and Nation to conserve energy without sacrificing our legal responsibility to provide good public schools."

DELAWARE (Telephone interview, 12/4)

"No real trouble; schools are high priority now, above homes and some businesses, but all is tentative." Oil cutbacks are anticipated for January and February.

State plans are in progress. Governor received legislative mandate to affect operation of state government until January 31. The Governor has issued an executive order which lowers building temperatures.

The State Department of Public Instruction has established an energy committee.

The State Board of Education has

- extended Christmas vacation through January 4; no lost time is to be made up
- mandated 4-day school weeks during February
- urged students not to drive to school
- advised cut back in use of buildings for extracurricular activities

The Delaware School Boards Association has been participating in all state-level discussions.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA (information sent 12/3)

The Superintendent has issued a set of energy conservation guidelines "to be implemented immediately:"

- reduced temperatures
- close windows
- avoid unnecessary lighting
- avoid use of relocatable buildings which are heated by electricity during the period December 1 - March 15
- reschedule athletic events requiring stadium lighting to daytime hours
- school-wide poster contests on energy conservation slogans
- advise parents to ensure that children are warmly dressed

FLORIDA (information sent 12/4)

Major problems are diesel fuel and gasoline. "Schools in Florida will be in more trouble next spring if air conditioning is not available. (Modern schools without windows are the rule in Florida.)"

State Education Commissioner has sent all schools a list of recommended economy measures. (Education USA)

State has ordered each school district to put into effect a comprehensive plan for energy conservation and file a copy of the plan with the state. (New York Times)

Dade County Public Schools, Miami, Florida (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Information sent 11/27)

"Present operating levels appear to be maintainable through the winter."

School board policy is one of voluntary conservation. Superintendent issued the following guidelines to principals, department heads, and administrative staff:

- boiler use restrictions
- cold water detergents for laundry services
- discontinued all field trips
- urged car pools when possible
- more efficient scheduling urged of vehicles delivering materials or providing services
- lower speeds for school vehicles
- lower classroom temperatures
- shorter hours for air conditioning units
- consolidated evening classes in a single area of building where possible
- units shut off over weekends and holidays
- minimum security lighting
- no exterior lighting during the daylight hours
- turn off lights when areas are not in use
- shut off electrically powered equipment when not in use

GEORGIA

Shortages of gas and diesel fuel present statewide problems with student transportation.

State Board of Education approved a resolution at its November meeting which calls for the federal government to adopt measures which will circumvent the problems resulting from the fuel crisis. The resolution requests the Secretary of the U. S. Department of the Interior to intervene on behalf of Georgia schools to see that sufficient fuel be made available to heat the schools, and to devise a formula that would assure local boards of education an adequate supply of gasoline.

State Superintendent of Schools was to have discussed with local school superintendents the possibility of an extended Christmas vacation, with the missed days being made up during the spring holidays or on Saturdays. ("Georgia Board of Education Approves Fuel Crisis Resolution," Barnesville, Ga., News-Gazette, November 15, 1973) Some districts have accepted the recommendation for an extended vacation, some have rejected it.

HAWAII (Information sent 11/30)

Fuel supply is "adequate."

State Department of Education is awaiting a meeting with State Energy Coordinator before taking any action.

Department has developed an energy conservation plan. All Department of Education personnel have been requested to

-keep engines tuned for maximum utilization of fuel
-reduce warm-up time; avoid sudden starts
-lower school vehicle speeds
-consolidate trips; pool rides; use buses; review the number of field trips
-turn off lights
-turn off air conditioning equipment and other electrical equipment when not in use
-turn off night lights during daylight hours and over holidays and week-ends

Further plans "being investigated" (to be discussed with state coordinator)

-reduce bus route mileage
-consolidate bus stops
-buses carry capacity loads

IDAHO (telephone interview, 11/26)

Schools heated by oil have not been able to get firm commitment on price or quantity from their suppliers. At this time, "it is on a day-to-day basis." Since cold weather has not yet set in, no heating problems yet.

Idaho School Trustees Association was the first to call for planning. It is working in conjunction with the State Department of Education and other agencies to establish a committee for anticipating the state's energy problems and devising solutions.

Schools have indicated that they will lower classroom temperatures and allow students to wear extra clothing to school.

ILLINOIS (information sent 11/26)

A statewide survey of 848 school buildings which use fuel oil or LP gas indicated that 677 buildings were without guaranteed fuel supplies to last through the winter. As many as 166 school districts had been unable to obtain commitments from gasoline suppliers, the survey found. (news release, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, August 27, 1973)

> Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction is operating a fuel shortage "hot line" which attempts to match fuel suppliers with surpluses with school districts seeking assistance in locating fuel. It has also established an Advisory Committee for School Energy Planning.
>
> State Superintendent of Public Instruction has asked the legislature for authority to permit schools to close without penalty during the winter to conserve energy. State Superintendent has also recommended that public schools running short of fuel close for two weeks in January to conserve their supplies, and make up the lost time later. ("Let Schools Shut if Struck by Fuel Shortage," by G. Robert Hillman, Chicago Sun-Times, November 17, 1973) He has also issued a lengthy set of energy conservation guidelines and urged schools to develop energy conservation educational materials and curriculum.
>
> Illinois Association of School Boards executive director is serving on the OSPI Advisory Comittee; director of legislative services has testified before a special legislative committee.

Chicago Public Schools, Chicago, Illinois (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

OSPI survey found that none of Chicago's 231 school buildings which heat with fuel oil had received commitments from suppliers. This is 38% of the city's schools. (news release, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, August 27, 1973) A school board member has asked the board to consider a plan to close the schools in January or February if severe energy shortages develop ("Let Schools Shut if Struck by Fuel Shortage", by G. Robert Hillman, Chicago Sun-Times, Nov. 17, 1973). Classroom temperatures have been lowered to 70 (Cooler Apts., Seen," by Paul McGrath, Chicago Sun-Times, Tues. November 27, 1973) Officials of the Chicago Teachers Union have said that the union will oppose any attempts to conserve fuel by lowering thermostats below 69 degrees, or by reshuffling school schedules so that classes would be dismissed during winter months and in session during the summer. ("Teachers Union to Fight Heating Cuts," by Jack Fuller and Alan Merridew, Chicago Tribune, November 11, 1973)

Cook County Superintendent of Schools, Chicago and surrounding suburbs

Superintendent has cautioned all district superintendents "to exercise great care and prudence" when implementing energy conservation policies, to protect "the health, safety, and welfare of the children." He has suggested:

- -not to lower classroom temperatures below 70 degrees
- -use caution in temperature control of showers and locker rooms for swimming and physical education students
- -use temperance in reducing lighting, so as not to increase vandalism and theft
- -any tendency to raise cafeteria refrigeration temperatures should be watched to guard against food spoilage

(news release, Educational Service Region, Cook County, November 29, 1973)

Crete-Monee School District 201 U, Crete, Illinois (NSBA Direct Affiliate. (information sent 11/27)

Since all school heating is by gas, the district "does not anticipate any problem."

Energy conservation steps which have been taken:

- -curtailment of field trips and special bus runs
- -lower classroom temperature
- -reduced heat at night, and over the weekends, and vacation periods
- -all burners have been adjusted to maximum efficiency
- -limited after school use of the building to necessary programs

No Board of Education action at this time.

Community Unit School District #2, Marion, Illinois, (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

"January and February will be the crucial months. We are already doing everything possible to conserve fuel," the superintendent reports. Bus fuel is in short supply and heating fuel is only guaranteed by the supplier through December. (Marion, Ill., Republican, November 21, 1973)

Peoria School District #150, Peoria, Illinois (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

No uniform directive has been issued by the school districts' administration, but schools have been asked to cooperate.

Energy conservation steps which have been taken:

-lower classroom temperature
-dim unnecessary lighting
-cancel field trips
(Peoria, Ill., Morning Journal Star, November 20, 1973)

Springfield Public School District #186, Springfield, Illinois (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

A first round of cutbacks was announced November 20, including reduced heat, light, and vehicle speed. A joint teacher-parent-student conference was to meet early in December to assess other possible cuts. Springfield schools are heated by natural gas, making the situation less critical than in many districts. (Springfield, Ill., State Journal, November 21, 1973)

INDIANA (information sent 11/26)

"The severity of the problem is impossible to determine. While there are fuel allocations for local schools, no problems have occured as yet. This is partially due to a warm fall."

The Governor's office, through the Department of Commerce, chairs an Energy Committee which is coordinating monitoring action. So far, the committee has only acknowledged that there may be a problem.

Department of Public Instruction is compiling a list of "energy-saving" suggestions to distribute to local schools.

Indiana School Boards Association has been urging local boards "to have an established plan for saving energy, but not to overreact and announce future school closings at this time." The association is "working closely" with state governmental agencies.

Hammond Public School District, Hammond, Indiana (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

Hammond schools "began taking fuel conservation precautions in mid-November." Steps taken include:

-reducing classroom temperature to 68 degrees
-lowering building temperature when buildings are not in use
(Hammond, Ind., Times, November 23, 1973)

Indianapolis, Indiana

District has been advised by its fuel oil supplier that its allocation, based on the monthly use last year, will be reduced initially by 4% this year.

School board has approved these fuel conservation measures "for immediate implementation:"

-lower classroom temperatures
-instruct all custodial and maintenance workers in fuel conservation
-develop energy crisis units in science and social studies classes
-curtail the scheduling of evening and weekend activities in buildings; attempt to reschedule existing activities to late afternoon hours
-eliminate field trips that are not contracted
-review all bus routes
-develop car pool for personnel assigned to each building

"Consideration of the following actions may be necessary if the fuel shortage becomes more severe:"

-lower classroom temperatures further
-cancel all evening and weekend use of facilities
-reduce inside city travel allowances
-cancel heat in all non-classroom large areas such as libraries, gymnasiums, auditoriums, and swimming pools
-cancel all field trips
-extend Christmas vacation to four weeks and make up days missed by having school on Saturdays or cancelling spring vacation
-close schools on days when outdoor temperature is predicted to be abnormally low for two or more days (Report of the General Superintendent, November 13, 1973)

Rensselaer Central School Corporation, Rensselaer, Indiana (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

All bus transportation of pupils other than daily to and from schools has been cut. "Athletic teams, bands, and other performing groups will have to find and pay for their own fuel if they wish to travel." (Rensselaer, Ind., Republican, November 16, 1973)

IOWA (information sent 11/26)

Iowa Association of School Boards participated in a November 7th meeting of all education-related organizations in the state, chaired by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and members of the State Energy Priorities Committee. IASB has not adopted a specific policy concerning the energy crisis, but anticipates encouraging local districts to comply with state recommendations.

Department of Public Instruction has recommended that each school district develop an energy conservation plan. It has suggested these measures:

-lower building temperatures
-ask students, teachers, and others to wear warm clothing
-improve the efficiency of school heating systems
-turn off all unnecessary lights
-use minimal outside lighting
-reduce temperature of hot water
-shut off circulating pumps during non-occupancy hours
-shorten extra-curricular activities
-schedule extra-curricular activities, where possible, during the day; combine public performances on the same evening
-eliminate practices during Christmas vacation
-at least one day of cold lunch
-more efficient operation of bus engines
-lower speeds for school vehicles
-require students to ride buses rather than drive cars
-cancel out-of-town educational trips, senior trips
-operate buses at capacity; eliminate excessive number of stops
-reduce use of driver education car

Other "alternatives" suggested by the Department, if the above suggestions are not sufficient:

-lengthen the Christmas holiday by two weeks
-an extended school day for four days a week
-kindergarten classes every other day all day to eliminate kindergarten routes
-year-round school

Iowa Education Association is strongly against any extension of contract into the summer months, but does favor an extended four-day teaching week.

The largest 24 school districts in Iowa are opposed to the extended four-day week, and have sent a letter to the Governor stating their position.

Governor has said that some schools may be forced to close because of the fuel crisis. (Education USA, November 12, 1973) He has appointed a State Energy Priorities Committee to study ways of reducing fuel consumption.

Jefferson, Iowa

Superintendent tried for more than five months to get enough fuel oil for district's needs. "He has some now, but no one is certain whether it will be enough to operate all winter." ("Energy: Iowa Town Mutes Its Carillon to Save on Fuel," by Seth S. King, New York Times, November 18, 1973.)

KANSAS

A bill to be introduced in the 1974 session of the state legislature would allow local school districts to operate for less than 180 days or for more or less than six hours per day. ("Committee of Legislature Approves Actions," Week in Review, Kansas Association of School Boards, November 16, 1973)

Dodge City Unified School District #443, Dodge City, Kansas (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Information sent 11/26)

Relies almost entirely on natural gas for heating purposes, so "our fate is pretty much in the hands of others." So far, the district has been receiving the same allocation of gasoline for buses that it received last year which is sufficient. However, the district is paying considerably more for that gasoline this year, since no bids were received.

"At this time, no real problem has developed here due to fuel shortages. I suppose our only real problem is that we do not know what to anticipate."

The district has lowered classroom temperatures, and plans to shorten non-teaching staff lunch hours and the work day by one-half hour to conserve gasoline normally used at noon.

According to the Superintendent, "the lowered room temperature concept certainly has a tendency to reduce incentive on the part of students and staff."

KENTUCKY (Information sent 11/29)

"It is a little early to determine the extent of the energy crisis on the schools in Kentucky." Some districts are operating on a week to week basis with their gasoline supply to operate their school bus fleets.

Some school districts have already restricted the use of school buses to transport pupils to classes only; some have restricted the use of school facilities, especially at night, to any non-school related function; and districts are lowering thermostats.

Governor has requested the State Superintendent of Schools to conduct an emergency statewide survey of energy consumed in heating school facilities, so that the impact of potential cutbacks in heating fuels can be assessed. "If survey results indicate a severe pinch, it is possible that schools may be included in priority groups by the state."

State Superintendent of Schools is now considering a recommendation to the State Board of Education to ask school districts to lengthen the school day and reduce the school week to four days.

Kentucky School Boards Association has taken no action, but it is in "close contact and liaison with our State Department of Education, and that agency is working with the Governor and his special Commission on Energy."

LOUISIANA

Orleans Parish Public School District, New Orleans, Louisiana (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Information sent 11/27)

District has established a Task Force on Energy Conservation.

Superintendent has instructed all employees to:

-lower building temperatures
-turn off lights whenever possible
-lower speeds of school vehicles

District expects to be taking further steps to conserve energy as the work of the commission progresses.

In addition, contingency plans have been drawn up for local weather above freezing, and sub-freezing local weather; in the event school gas consumption must be curtailed to an absolute minimum.

MAINE (telephone interview 12/6)

Fuel oil and gasoline are being conserved, but supplies appear adequate for December. A few districts have run short of fuel or gasoline, to the point of having to make emergency efforts to get supplies, but so far no schools have closed.

Governor has asked the legislature for a number of emergency powers, including the power to close schools. (Legislature meets January 2. This will likely be a priority item, and the Governor could get his powers by the second week in January.)

State Commissioner of Education has issued a non-legal advisory to districts to extend vacation by three days and to postpone extra-curricular activities. (Since no days have been cut from the requirement of 180 days of school, the three days at Christmas and any other lost days presumably will be made up during warmer weather.)

State School Boards Association, Inc., of Maine has participated, upon request, in advisory meetings to the state commissioner.

MARYLAND (information sent 11/28)

Schools have been able to contract for only half of the 22.5 million gallons of Number 2 fuel oil they need to heat classrooms. "Outlook is not nearly so bleak" for Number 4, Number 5, and Number 6 fuel, as most school systems have commitments for deliveries to meet their needs. However, total conversion to Number 6 fuel, if necessary, is considered impractical and impossible. (October 29, 1973, news release from the State Department of Education)

Governor was the first governor in the nation granted the power to close schools in an emergency. (Education USA) He has asked school officials to voluntarily adopt rules that would prohibit students from driving automobiles to school if they have access to other means of transportation. ("Mandel Seeks Curb on Student Driving," by Edward Walsh, Washington Post, November 30, 1973)

State Department of Education has "resolved" to:

-keep equipment operating at maximum efficiency
-lower temperatures during the day and at night
-develop a conscious concern among users of school facilities of the need for energy conservation

The Department is prepared to take the following actions if conditions require them:

-eliminate evening and weekend programs, including athletic events; reschedule some events to daytime hours
-eliminate adult education classes

"In the event of a crisis, the daytime instructional program will be the last affected activity." (Joint Statement on Impending Fuel Crisis by Maryland School Superintendents and Maryland State Department of Education, November 2, 1973)

Maryland Association of Boards of Education has taken no action and does not expect to take any in the future, since problems caused by the energy crisis will be handled directly by the State Department of Education and the State Superintendent of Schools.

Board of Education of Carroll County, Maryland (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

Board has directed staff to implement state guidelines as they pertain to schools and the energy crisis, including a set back of all thermostats. (Board of Education of Carroll County, Westminster, Maryland, news release, November 26, 1973)

Harford County, Maryland

Schools will be receiving fuel only in the amount used in the previous year. In addition, the district has had 2,000 gallons of its fuel stolen.

Board has passed a resolution on a four-phase plan. These steps have been taken to implement Phase I:

-lower temperatures
-night setting as soon as students are dismissed
-keep doors and windows closed
-turn off unnecessary lights
-maintain heating and ventilating equipment proper condition

The other three phases are to be implemented as need dictates, by the Superintendent, after conferring with the Board President. They involve the curtailment of after-school activity, cancellation of after-school activity; and altering the curricular program after "all other phases have been implemented and no other alternatives are feasible." This phase might include cancelling field and athletic trips, or altering the school calendar. ("Schools Plan Fuel Crisis Measures," newspaper article.)

Prince George's County, Maryland

A memorandum to principals has called for:

-lower temperctures
-turning off lights
-not opening windows

If conditions worsen, the district is prepared to eliminate evening school and use of the school by outside groups at night. There is no plan to cut school hours. ("Schools, Stores to Reduce Temperatures to Save Fuel," by Judy Nicol, Washington Post, November 8, 1973)

Montgomery County, Maryland

Fuel suppliers have assured the district that they will try to meet its fuel needs this year. "But, if there are further changes in the oil supply situation, or prices continue their sharp rise, we could be in serious trouble," Superintendent has said.

Board was to have considered a resolution at its November 13 meeting related to energy crisis. Under consideration prior to the meeting were these energy conservation measures:

-lower temperatures
-alternatives concerning afternoon, evening, and weekend use of buildings
-keeping windows, doors closed; shades and blinds open during the day and closed at night
-operate heating equipment at maximum efficiency
-turning off lights when not in use
-using other electrical equipment only when necessary
("Fuel Crisis Looms," The Superintendent's Bulletin, Rockville, Maryland, November 12, 1973)

MASSACHUSETTS (information sent 11/26)

Suppliers are informing school districts that they will be supplied fuel only in the amount used the previous year. Some suppliers are cutting back 10-15%.

State Department of Education has held public meetings and met with the Massachusetts Educational Conference Board, which includes representatives of most of the major education associations in the state.

Commissioner of Education has "advised" all superintendents to:

- -take self-imposed uction for reducing fuel and energy consumption by 20-25%
- -take steps to set a similar reduction target for gas consumption
- -heighten student awareness of and involvement in energy conservation through instructional programs

The Department intends to conduct regional workshops for superintendents and maintenance personnel, issue technical information bulletins, and serve as an information clearing house. Commissioner of Education plans to recommend to the State Board of Education that emergency regulations be adopted on a contingency basis to permit reducing the minimum school day and minimum school hours per year. He is not recommending a school calendar change at this time. (Commissioner of Education, Advisory Memorandum for Superintendents of Schools, RE: Recommended Actions Regarding the Energy Crisis, November 27, 1973)

Massachusetts Educational Conference Board, which has been serving as an ad hoc committee to the Commissioner of Education to plan for energy conservation by the schools, has voted that schools receive a high priority in fuel allocations after health and safety agencies. It will convey its view to the Governor's energy task force.

Massachusetts Association of School Committees, Inc., is a member of of the Massachusetts Educational Conference Board. The President of the Association met with the Governor on November 27, and will make recommendations based on the outcome of the meeting.

MICHIGAN (information sent 12/3)

School districts "having the most difficulty at this time are those who are on interruptable gas service." Several schools have had gas services interrupted for the remainder of the year and having difficulty getting fuel oil as their allocation is low because they were interrupted for very minimum periods previously. Districts heating with gas and not on interruptable service "seem to be in the best shape" at this time. Some schools have had difficulty getting commitments on gasoline, but have managed with emergency allocations. Most districts will probably "feel the gasoline pinch" before the winter is over.

Department of Education survey indicates 67% of the public schools will be short almost six million gallons of gasoline and nearly five million gallons of fuel oil this school year; or a shortfall of 25% for both fuels. (Department of Education Memorandum, "Daily Status Report of the Survey of Gasoline and Fuel Oil as of 11/29/73")

So far, no schools have closed, though some have closed buildings and doubled up in other buildings to meet the crisis.

Governor has requested the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to examine "all feasible alternatives with repect to school scheduling and use of school facilities" and to develop recommendations which would reduce fuel consumption in the schools.

State Board of Education has requested those school districts which believe they will be unable to be open for 180 days because of the energy crisis to inform the State Board rather than accept the State Superintendent's proposal to extend the usual ten-day Christmas vacation to 20 days. It has directed the State Superintendent to prepare recommendations regarding energy conservation and fuel shortages; and to explore long-range alternatives for meeting energy problems.

State Department of Education has released suggestions for conserving energy to all districts, and has urged districts to voluntarily put these suggestions in effect. Suggestions included:

-lower temperatures
-begin reheating of the building no more than 1-1/2 hours before classes begin
-encourage the wearing of warm clothing by students and staff
-close the window drapes
-consider the curtailment or consolidation of after-school and evening activities; and, consider conducting such activities under reduced temperatures
-ensure that heating units are operating at maximum efficiency

Department also issued suggestions for conserving of gasoline, recommending that "particular attention should be given to the identification of transportation priorities." Suggestions included:

-limiting the number of bus stops
-requiring pupils to walk a greater distance to the main route
-transportation of no pupils within 1 1/2 miles of the schools they attend
-protection of the bus fleet and gasoline supply from theft
-elimination of nonessential bus travel such as to distant bus storage locations
-reduction of travel for 'low priority' education activities; reduction or elimination of travel for recreational activities

-extensive conservation measures which could be implemented by the bus drivers and mechanics. ("Suggestions for School Districts on the Conservation of Energy," Bulletin No. 1, Michigan Department of Education, November, 1973)

Department has appointed a task force to work on the energy problems of the schools. Though emphasizing immediate solutions, the task force intends to explore a long-range approach. Several education groups, including the Michigan Association of School Boards, have appointed consultants as resource persons for this task force.

Michigan Association of School Boards has taken no action at this point for "serving as a resource person and keeping local boards informed of the situation." It is considering, in cooperation with the Michigan Association of School Administrators, issuing energy conservation recommendations to school districts. At this point, the Association has urged districts to follow the Department of Education suggestions.

Flint School District, Flint Michigan (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Telephone interview 11/28)

District does not anticipate any probiems.

It has:

-locked all thermostats at 68 degrees
-encouraged the turning off of unnecessary lights

No further action is anticipated at this time.

Haslett Public Schools, Haslett, Michigan (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Information sent 11/30)

Schools and busing programs have not experienced any adverse effects at this time, although district expects "certain effects within the next few weeks."

Fuel conservation steps which have been taken:

-lowered temperatures
-exclusion of all weekend activities, except for high priority school activities
-elimination of week night use of school buildings by outside groups, except for local youth-sponsored activities
-curtailment of all poorly-attended night recreational and/or adult education activities
-disconnection of almost 30% of the light fixtures in the district

District is establishing an energy conservation committee.

All spectator buses have been eliminated, and administration and board are considering the possible elimination of the following, in order of priority:

-field trips
-bus transportaion for students living within 1 1/2 miles of school
-bus transportation for middle school athletics
-transportation to all special school-sponsored activities
-bus transportation involving high school athletic contests

Mona Shores School District, Muskegon, Michigan (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

District has:

-lowered classroom temperatures
-closed window drapes at night
-eliminated unnecessary outside lighting
-asked for recommendations from the principals of each building ("Shores Finds Ways To Cut Energy Use," Muskegon, Michigan, Chronicle, November 22, 1973)

Mount Pleasant School District, Mount Pleasant, Michigan (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

All Mount Pleasant schools except one are heated by natural gas. While the district is not confronted with a gas shortage, "this is not to say we aren't going to conserve what we have."

All building administrators have been requested to review their heating and lighting practices along with their head building custodians, and to initiate, if not already in effect, a workable conservation effort. ("Schools Cutting," by Darlene Dwiatkowski, Mt. Pleasant, Michigan, Times-News, November 20, 1973)

MINNESOTA (information sent 11/30)

"Minnesota will be one of the states hardest hit by the cutback in energy." Only 88 of 438 school districts are guaranteed they can stay open. Problems: gasoline, fuel oil, and natural gas.

Minnesota School Boards Association executive director has been appointed by the Governor to serve on a state commission. He is the single representative for all facets of education.

Schools rank 19th on a list of 21 priority groups for fuel allocations.

Special School District #1, Minneapolis, Minnesota (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Information sent 11/28)

Schools and busing programs are not affected at the present time. "Our current supplier of fuel oil and gasoline feels that unless there is intervention from the federal level, we will have sufficient fuel to get through this school year."

> District is in the process of drafting a plan for conserving fuel in the event of complete fuel exhaustion. Plan will be submitted to the State Department of Education.

Independent School District #625, St. Paul, Minnesota (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

Schools are facing an 18-20% decrease in fuel supplies.

> St. Paul Public Schools fuel crisis committee has prepared a list of recommendations for the Board of Education, ranging from limiting the use of schools in the evening, to holding classes on warm Saturdays. ("City Schools Ponder Fuel Solutions," by Jackie Roedler, St. Paul, Minn., Pioneer Press, November 18, 1973)

MISSISSIPPI

Grenada Municipal Separate School District, Grenada, Mississippi

At mid-November, district was short 2,000 gallons of gasoline needed to operate school buses for the month. The district hoped to get by with the help of several gas distributors in the area who should have had small surpluses this month. ("School System Finds Enough Gas to 'Get By'," by Peggy Scott, Grenada, Miss., Sentinel-Star, November 15, 1973)

Oktibbhea County School System and Starkville Municipal Schools, Starkville, Mississippi

Distributor providing the county system with gasoline received a gasoline cut of 10% which was passed on to the school system.

> Schools in both districts closed early for the Thanksgiving holidays to conserve energy. ("Oktibbeha School Holidays Extended," West Point, Miss. Times-Leader, November 15, 1973)

MISSOURI (Telephone interview, 11/26)

No substantial effects have occurred, beyond some widely scattered rural districts which are having difficulty obtaining propane and gasoline.

Lexington R-V School District, Lexington, Missouri (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Information sent 11/29)

Schools and busing programs are currently unaffected, and should not be affected this winter.

District has reduced classroom temperatures and reduced the usage of buildings.

Versailles, Missouri

Natural gas supply has been cut off. District has sought to purchase automatic wood-burning heaters.

MONTANA (information sent 11/26)

Fuel costs are up 10%. State anticipates "dramatic increases" in Canadian gas prices by July 1, 1974. Meanwhile, oil and propane for rural areas is in short supply. No actual shortages of fuels yet.

Gasoline shortages will probably curtail extracurricular activities this winter.

School districts will cooperate with officials in making necessary reductions.

NEBRASKA (information sent 11/27)

A recent Nebraska State School Boards Association survey of 35 school districts indicated that 12 of the districts anticipate heating fuel shortages, with five other districts uncertain. Most of these affected districts use natural gas, and are on interruptable service. Three of the districts anticipating shortages rely upon propane. There were "frequent complaints" about the cost of fuel.

The survey showed that four of the districts anticipating shortages and two not anticipating shortages have completed formal plans for coping with the energy crisis. Several other districts said they are working on plans.

The Nebraska State School Boards Association is serving as the contact between local school districts and the State Allocation Officer; and NSSBA is serving as an information clearinghouse. NSSBA has requested Nebraska schools to collectively reduce their energy consumption by 20%. NSSBA offered school districts these suggestions for conserving fuel:

-four-day week, with each day 90 minutes longer
-closing buildings on sub-zero days
-reducing temperatures
-curtailing activities outside of school hours
-curtailing field trips and activity trips
-lowering bus speeds
-using small vehicles wherever possible
-contracting with parents to transport pupils
-consolidating bus routes

Scottsbluff School District, Scottsbluff, Nebraska (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Information sent 11/27)

Schools and busing programs are currently unaffected, although "there may be some curtailment of activities that entail the use of school buses" this winter.

Steps which have been taken to conserve energy:

-thermostats turned down throughout the school plant
-better use of daylight and a reduction in artificial lighting has been encouraged

School board "has discussed and is totally aware of the energy crisis as it affects our schools, and has approved the policy of lowering thermostats and curtailing activities as needed."

NEVADA (information sent 11/27)

Schools are currently getting fuel deliveries, but are paying up to 25% more for oil. All school districts are getting sufficient gasoline, but prices have risen.

All schools have taken action to conserve heating fuels, and voluntary action is being taken to reduce vehicle use where possible. Districts are not anticipating any cutback in the number of school days, or any school closures. "There may be some shifting of schedules to shorten the school days."

Nevada State School Boards Association has not taken action with regard to the energy situation.

Washoe County School District, Reno, Nevada (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Information sent 11/26)

District has developed a fuel conservation plan in an attempt to reduce all fuel consumption by approximately 25%.

The following measures were instituted by or approved by the Board of Trustees:

-reduced temperatures
-light meters checking all lights in the district
-technical changes in the setting of all fresh air intakes
-instituting energy conservation units in the curriculum

Although school buses have not yet been affected, "this could change at any moment. It is anticipated that field trips will be sharply reduced within the foreseeable future."

District is in the process of developing "back up" programs in the event of a brownout: replacing hot lunches with cold lunches; turning off welding units and kilns in shop and craft classes.

"In respect to future measures, the Trustees have placed special emphasis upon the educational responsibilities that our schools have for teaching children about the importance of energy conservation."

NEW HAMPSHIRE (information sent 11/27)

Short supply of Number 2 oil. According to one source, busing programs have not been affected as "New Hampshire busing is quite different from other areas. If we curtail busing, the kids just can't get to school."

State Board of Education has issued a lengthy memorandum detailing "recommendations and guidelines for immediate implementation" to all school districts. They include:

-reduce thermostats during the day, nights, and weekends
-heat only those parts of the building used or occupied by people
-curtail use of buildings to essential activities
-reduce speed on all school vehicles
-reduce bus trips that are non-essential or not legally required
-reduce use of electricity
-improve efficiency of heating systems
-immediate and long-range educational programs dealing with heat and fuel conservation

A meeting of superintendents held November 30 was to have discussed alternative school calendar arrangements: 10-day reduction, realignment of the 180-day calendar, four-day school week, redistribution of students. Currently, the 180-day school calendar may be reduced to 170 days upon application to and approval by the Commissioner of Education.

State Board of Education and State Department of Education have also a set of guidelines to aid local school officials in preparing contingency plans.

New Hampshire School Boards Association has been "in on the planning."

NEW JERSEY (Information sent 11/27)

School boards are "beginning to feel the 'crunch.'" Many boards have either not received any bids for the 1973-74 school year; have had their supplies under contract reduced by the suppliers; or have had suppliers default completely on negotiated bids and agreements. "Needless to say, schools will be affected this winter if [this is]...any indication of what is to come."

New Jersey School Boards Association has distributed to its membership a fact sheet on the mandatory allocation program for middle distillates. The Association is acting as a liaison between individual boards, the Oil Heat Council of New Jersey, and the U. S. Department of Interior's Office of Oil and Gas. It is also working closely with the State Department of Education and the New Jersey Division of Civil Defense, Emergency Preparedness agencies which have been appointed by the Governor to coordinate plans for the conservation of energy.

The following recommendations have been proposed to the State Board of Education for their immediate action:

- eliminate or curtail all after-school extracurricular activities; eliminate field trips which involve vehicular travel; schedule interscholastic sports, where possible, during the day
- eliminate weekend, and reduce evening, use of school buildings
- eliminate or reduce pupil transportation being provided for distances less than the state mandated mileage limits
- eliminate all home to school transportation by student-driven vehicles; prohibit student parking privileges
- building principals should develop car pools through cooperative planning with faculty and other building employees
- each district should encourage parents to have students dress more warmly
- operate buses at full capacity loads; substitute smaller vehicles for full size buses where routing so indicates

In addition, the NJSBA has proposed that school scheduling be revised during the December-March period, and that boards be permitted to use any and all of the following options:

- extend Christmas vacation to January 7
- create a mid-winter recess the week of February 17th, in lieu of Easter vacation or shortening the school year
- initiate a four-day school week through the winter months - January, February, and March

"It appears at this time that the New Jersey State Department of Education will recommend to the State Board of Education that options 1 and 2 be immediately instituted."

NEW YORK (telephone interview)

State Board of Regents has urged all schools to:

- develop energy conservation plans
- prepare plans for obtaining fuel and learn about emergency procedures of the federal fuel allocation program
- begin preparing contingency plans
- plan and launch a program for educating students, parents and the public about energy use and conservation ("The Energy Crisis and the Schools," by Thomas Hobert, The New York Teacher, December 2, 1973)

State Education Department has issued a set of recommendations for conserving gasoline in pupil transportation programs through the chairman of the Department's Task Force on Fuel Allocation and Conservation. School administrators were cautioned to develop their own contingency plans if the recommended measures do not result in a 15% savings of gasoline. In developing these contingency plans, the Department suggested that local administrators consider:

- reexaming the efficiency of the entire transportation system
- evaluating the consolidation of bus stops
- evaluating athletic and curricular field trips
- eliminating or reducing some or all late-activity buses
- staggering opening and dismissal times between and within buildings for maximum transportation efficiency
- replacing larger buses which are partially filled, with smaller vehicles, if possible
- exploring multi-district transportation services
- evaluating the district distance eligibility policy

Department intends to maintain a "full annual session of not less than 180 days." (State Education Department, news release, December 4, 1973)

The state has established an interdepartmental fuel hot line. School boards have been urged to use this hot line for emergency assistance in obtaining fuel, and for information about its availability. (Negotiation News, New York State School Boards Association, November 21, 1973)

New York State School Boards Association has been "working with the State Education Department and will continue to do so."

Cayuga County BOCES, Auburn, New York (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

"Fuel and energy situation presently is not considered that serious," but district has discussed emergency energy and fuel conservation measures. ("County Schoolmen Deliberate Energy, Fuel Conservation," Auburn, N.Y., Citizen-Advertiser, November 15, 1973)

Corning-Painted Post Area School District, Corning, New York (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

All schools except two depend upon natural gas for heating. Although suppliers have differed in their interpretation of allocation rules, they have "basically agreed" that no more fuel is available, per month, than was delivered last year. Gasoline is also being allocated on the basis of last year's rate.

If the district experiences further cutbacks in gasoline, some extracurricular trips may have to be cut back. ("Schools Feel Energy Crisis, Savona Situation Is Serious," by Bob Rolfe, Corning, N.Y., Leader, November 15, 1973)

Fairport Central School District, Fairport, New York (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

School officials face a 29,000 gallon shortage of gasoline. This is a 16% cut. While the district, through a countywide contract, has been guaranteed the same amount of gasoline it used last year, officials say that "this district has grown so much that that won't be enough."

School board has voted to "temporarily suspend"

- bus transportation for field trips
- buses for spectators at athletic contests
- 4 and 6 p.m. buses for students staying late at school
- renting buses to outside groups

Busing of athletic teams to games and bands to music events will continue. So will buses which shuttle students between schools during the day for special classes. ("Schools Set Busing Curb in Fairport," by Carl Schierhorn, Rochester, N.Y., Times-Union, November 20, 1973)

Fonda-Fultonville Central School District, Fonda, New York (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Information sent 11/27)

These conservation measures are now in effect:

- lower temperatures
- window heaters and individual heaters in lavatories have been turned off
- reduced outside lighting
- alternating lighting in the corridors

Horseheads Central School District, Horseheads, New York (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

All schools are heated by natural gas. Gasoline for buses and other school vehicles is available "theoretically" at the 1972 level.

Vehicle speeds have been reduced to conserve gasoline. In the event of a further shortage, district "might have to cut back on transporting some students it is not legally required to carry." ("Schools Feel Energy Crisis, Savona Situation is Serious," by Bob Rolfe, Corning, N.Y., Leader, November 15, 1973)

City of New York School District, New York, New York (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

Nearly half of the district's school buildings still burn coal, ("How a City Panel Copes with the Energy Crisis," by Glenn Fowler, New York Times, November 23, 1973) and the school system has a year's supply of coal on hand. (New York Times) Oil supplies so far have been "adequate," but are "unpredictable" for the coming months. (New York Times)

The Mayor's Emergency Energy Supply Task Force has halted the conversion of old buildings - "principally schools" - from coal to oil heating plants. ("How a City Panel Copes with the Energy Crisis," by Glenn Fowler, New York Times, November 23, 1973)

District has taken these steps toward conserving energy:

- lower temperatures
- turned off unnecessary lights
- closed sections of buildings which are not in use
- checking and rechecking boilers and other parts of heating systems
- canceling permits for use of school buildings by non-school groups, except in coal-heated structures (New York Times)

Nyack, New York

Superintendent is working on a plan to shift the Easter recess to a colder time period in February. ("Nixon Seeks 15% Cut in Gasoline Output and Reduced Deliveries of Heating Oil," by Robert D. McFadden, New York Times, November 26, 1973)

Oceanside School District, Oceanside, New York (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

District has contracted for oil for the upcoming winter months, but has acknowledged that a severe shortage could reduce the supply sent to its schools.

Fuel conservation measures currently in effect:

- lower temperatures
- windows are being kept closed
- all exterior and classroom doors are being kept shut, except when in use
- nighttime temperatures are being set as soon as students are dismissed

District is formulating contingency plans, should the energy crisis become more severe. ("Schools Target Energy Crisis," Oceanside, N.Y., Island Park Herald, November 14, 1973)

NORTH CAROLINA (information sent 11/28)

State has a sufficient supply of most fuels for most districts. "Five or six" large districts lack sufficient Number 2 fuel oil to last the winter, but "with proper conservation in all districts we can transfer sufficient allocations from other units to meet this situation."

Present supply of gasoline is "adequate for about two months." While there are contracts beyond that, there is no guarantee of delivery. "Also, anti-freeze, tires, oil, etc., are in very short supply. There is no stockpiling of those items."

State Board of Education has held a series of school transportation meetings for superintendents, transportation supervisors, and chief school bus mechanics throughout the state to discuss ways of conserving gasoline and oil. It has also issued a set of recommendations for conserving gasoline to local school districts.

North Carolina State School Boards Association has developed a lengthy list of suggested fuel conservation procedures. It is urging local districts to:

- "immediately initiate" its suggested fuel conservation procedures
- provide opportunity for parents, teachers, and students to discuss and suggest additional procedures
- forward any district plans which have "merit for general application" to NCSBA and the State Board

"As developments occur, some or all of the following may need to be initiated:" altered school day, cancelled night activities, school closing during severe weather, or four-day school week. Some of these measures will require permissive legislation.

Alexander County Schools, North Carolina

Has developed a three-phase energy conservation plan. Phase I would be implemented immediately "as prudent measures for the conservation of fuel;" Phase II, when fuel deliveries are curtailed; and Phase III, if fuel oil deliveries were restricted to such an extent that district's supply faced eminent exhaustion. ("Proposed Measures for the Conservation of Fuel Oil and Electricity in Alexander County Schools.")

Cumberland County Schools, North Carolina

Superintendent has directed principals to implement a lengthy list of fuel conservation suggestions. Maintenance Department is working with principals and staff members "in every way possible", to conserve energy. Fossil fuel consumption is being examined on a weekly basis; natural gas and electricity bills on a monthly basis.

Durham City Schools, Durham, North Carolina (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Information sent 11/26)

Currently, all schools have adequate heating, and busing programs are unaffected. "Apparently, busing will not be affected this winter, but the schools probably will."

District is following the fuel conservation plan furnished to it by the state.

No school board act yet, but "there is talk of curtailing extracurricular activities.

Gaston County Schools, North Carolina

School officials have developed a list of "possible alternatives for fuel conservation" for consideration by the school board. ("Gaston County Schools, Possible Alternatives - Fuel Conservation, For the Board's Consideration")

Shelby City Public Schools, Shelby, North Carolina (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

School board has adopted a list of energy conservation procedures. These include:

- reducing the heating time of school plants
- eliminating evening and weekend use of school buildings by outside groups
- lowering classroom temperatures
- closing all windows, doors, blinds and shades at the end of the day
- encouraging students and teachers to dress warmly
- discouraging special school activities at night
- asking parents, teachers and students to suggest fuel saving procedures

("Bulletin #50, November 15, 1973.")

OHIO (Information sent 11/27)

As of November 9, 21 school districts had reported to the State Department of Education that they had been unable to obtain a commitment for fuel oil. ("Guidelines for the Conservation of Energy in Ohio Schools," State Department of Education, Columbus, Ohio) This is more than a three million gallon shortage. ("Ohio Schools Face Fuel Shortage," EDCOM, November 9, 1973)

State Board of Education issued a resolution November 12 which adopted the Guidelines for the Conservation of Energy in Ohio Schools developed by the State Department of Education, and invoked the State Board's five-fold program for meeting the anticipated crisis:

- continue to process the emergency needs of schools
- distribute the Guidelines
- assist local school management in developing contingency plans associated with the disruption of the school calendar
- develop guidelines for securing buildings in the event of shutdowns during severe weather
- develop suitable instructional materials for teachers and students about the long-range energy crisis

Along with approving the energy conservation guidelines, the State Board passed a resolution proposed by one Board member which calls on the Governor, Congress, and the Nixon Administration to establish the operation of schools as a "first priority recipient of allocation of fuel for the operation of total school facilities." ("Planning for School Energy Conservation," Ohio Schools, November 23, 1973)

State Department of Education has issued its Guidelines for the Conservation of Energy in Ohio Schools. These guidelines are voluntary, since the Department has no statutory authority to mandate the outlined procedures. Briefly, they urge school districts to:

- lower temperature settings
- modify heating plant start-up
- reduce fresh air intake
- consider outside temperatures
- use heating equipment most efficiently
- turn off lights
- modify lighting practices
- use effective maintenance of school buses
- change transportation policies
- change driver education policies

Guidelines also contained preliminary procedures for school closings, stating that more detailed procedures will be forthcoming. ("Guidelines for the Conservation of Energy in Ohio Schools," State Department of Education, Columbus, Ohio.)

State Superintendent of Public Instruction has estimated that total compliance with the State Board adopted guidelines would mean a 30 percent reduction in fuel consumption for the coming winter. ("Planning for School Energy Conservation," Ohio Schools, November 23, 1973)

The Department is working with the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and the Chicago office of the U. S. Department of the Interior, and is available for assisting local districts with fuel shortages.

Ohio School Boards Association adopted a resolution on November 14 which urged each school district to "do its part" by cooperating with the efforts of state and federal agencies, the State Board of Education, and others; and to follow suggested state and federal guidelines "to the extent these are consistent with the maintenance of a sound educational program within their districts." ("OSBA Energy Crisis Resolution Adopted November 14, 1973")

OREGON (Information sent 11/29)

State has been affected by a potential crisis in the production of electricity since the beginning of the school year, due to a shortage of water last winter which resulted in low reservoirs behind the dams which are the major suppliers of electricity in the state. Although the electrical crisis has eased somewhat, due to early rain and snow, state is now getting into the problem of oil and gasoline shortages.

"Schools will undoubtedly be affected this winter, but we do not yet know the extent." Some districts have received notices from their suppliers that they will have to locate new suppliers when their current contracts expire; one district has been informed of a 25% cut in its heating oil allotment.

Governor last summer ordered a wide range of conservation measures: state car speed limit of 55 miles per hour, state buildings closed at 6 p.m. and cleaned during the day; heat, hot water and air conditioning reduced. The public was asked to voluntarily cooperate. The state achieved a 20 percent savings, but the public failed to respond. Governor later instituted a ban on all outdoor and display lighting, which appears to have had a greater effect upon the general public. ("Oregon Energy Cut Plan Has Chilling Effect - The Governor Has A Cold," by Stevens Roberts, Chicago Tribune, November 19, 1973)

Governor backed down on his proposal to close schools for a one month Christmas vacation, after the proposal met with much opposition. Together with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Governor declared December 3-7 "Energy Crisis Week," with December 7 as "Energy Crisis Day." All schools were urged to plan classroom activities in an "all-out educational effort to convey the gravity of the energy crisis." Principals were sent resource materials prepared by the State Department of Education, including a 59-page booklet, "Energy Crisis: Teaching Resources," which includes a one-day lesson plan in three curricular areas for five age levels.

Oregon School Boards Association has consulted with the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. At this time, the Association does not intend to get involved or to recommend actions to local school districts." Our only involvement would be if some of the proposals seem to us to threaten education or school district operation."

School District #1, Portland Oregon (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

Schools pulled "thousands of power plugs" to save an anticipated 10 percent of electrical energy during the coming school year, in compliance with an emergency appeal from the Governor.

Other steps which have been taken:

- lower thermostats
- turn on lights only when rooms are in use
- maintain heating systems at maximum efficiency

("Portland Schools Respond to Energy Crisis," The School Administrator, October 1973)

PENNSYLVANIA

"Pennsylvania's energy outlook this winter is grim," said a spokesman for Governor Shapp. Nevertheless, problems vary across the state. Many districts heat with coal and natural gas and anticipate few problems this winter.

The State Department of Education has established 5 key contact persons who will specialize in concern about curriculum and instruction, operation and maintenance, pupil transportation, school administration, and colleges and universities.

Voluntary guidelines from the State Department of Education were to be issued Thanksgiving week; school districts were asked to report their efforts to the State Department in November, December, and January. (Pennsylvania Education, November 19, 1973)

The state plan has three components: Plan A "involves lowering thermostats, sealing off buildings from the influx of cold outside air and reducing use of electricity. Plan B involves temporary closings in the event of delayed shipments of fuel oil, while Plan C provides for complete shutdowns. Either (B or C) would go into effect only if the present situation worsens." (The Ephrata, Pennsylvania, Review, November 22, 1973.)

PUERTO RICO (Information sent 12/6)

"Our schools have not been affected by the energy crisis."

RHODE ISLAND (Information sent 11/27; updated 12/14)

Serious energy shortages are assumed for Rhode Island, although the size of the shortages is not clear.

The Governor has established a commission to set priorities within the state, but as of 12/14, no priorities have been announced.

The State Department of Education has established an energy commission which has discussed alternative responses to shortages, and which has suggested conservation guidelines. The State Department has provided forms for school superintendents to report anticipated fuel supplies regularly.

The Rhode Island Association of School Committees sits on the State Department energy task force. The Association's official position is that schools should conserve energy where feasible, but that schools are high priority and should not be asked to sacrifice first or deeply. For example, on the matter of 4-day week proposals, the Association says, "Unless industry adopts a 4-day week, education should not lead the way."

SOUTH DAKOTA (Telephone interview 11/27)

75% of school districts received no bids at all for gasoline. 25% negotiated gasoline supplies at substantially higher cost than the year before, the rest are purchasing gasoline month by month as it's available. Districts expect to receive 85% of the fuel oil supplied last year for heating.

The South Dakota School Boards Association sits with an ad hoc state planning committee dealing with energy shortages.

The Association purchased the book Economy of Energy Conservation and sent one copy to each of South Dakota's 165 school districts.

The South Dakota Education Association has called upon its members to be "ethical" and to be "willing to do their part." At the same time it calls upon state planners not to put a specially heavy burden on schools. (The Educator's Advocate, November 20)

TENNESSEE (Information sent November 26)

Tennessee has an official energy crisis administrator at the state level. News reports have cited gasoline shortages for school buses, but schools are not facing energy problems generally.

The Tennessee School Boards Association has not dealt with the energy situation and claims no special expertise. TSBA expresses concern, however, "about the low position of education on most suggested priority lists."

TEXAS (Telephone interview 11/27; updated 12/12)

"There's really not too much of a problem here, yet. Texas is better off than 90% of the states because the oil and the refineries are here. The Governor has gotten it across that if each school district can cut energy use by 10-15%, we'll be all right."

The State Department of Education has issued some advisory guidelines to districts, suggesting that bus speed be reduced, janitorial services be conducted during daylight, temperatures be reduced, and the like.

The Texas Association of School Boards "remains neutral" and is monitoring the situation.

Houston Independent School District (NSBA Direct Affiliate; information sent 11/27)

"We have experienced no undue hardships relative to the energy crisis." Some plans are in development for conservation, but "we have sufficient energy available as of this date to continue our program in a relatively uninterrupted manner."

VERMONT

"Generally believed that many schools will be forced to close because of the gasoline shortage, rather than the heating fuel shortage. Gasoline will be in greater supply early in the month than late in the month." ("Energy Crisis," Vermont State School Directors Bulletin, December 1973)

State Department of Education has issued a set of suggested energy conservation procedures.

It is "generally accepted" that statewide decisions must be made in the area of sports programs and other divisional and regional programs.

But it is also "generally accepted" that school closures should be a school-by-school, and not a statewide, decision. Governor has promised "major school closure as a last resort." ("Energy Crisis," Vermont State School Directors Bulletin, December 1973)

VIRGINIA (Information sent 11/26)

Schools are currently unaffected by energy cutbacks, but some expect to be affected this winter by shortages of heating fuel and gasoline.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction is developing plans, and has made several suggestions to local school systems.

Virginia School Boards Association has taken no action to date "because there has been no need for such action." It recommends that local school districts follow the lead of the State Department of Education.

Fairfax County Public School District, McLean, Virginia (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Information sent 11/27)

District anticipates a 25 percent reduction in gasoline, and a 15 percent cut in heating fuel.

County Government and County School System have taken the following joint actions:

- reduced use of vehicles, including: cancelling instructional field trips and use of school buses to carry spectators to athletic events
- reduced interior and exterior lighting
- reduced heating levels in County office and school buildings
- advised parents to ensure children dress warmly
- rescheduled school athletic events, where possible, from night to daytime hours
- reduced the speed limit of all county vehicles, except for police, fire and rescue vehicles in emergencies
- encouraged County government and school personnel to form carpools ("Joint News Release, from Robert W. Wilson, County Executive, and S. John Davis, Division Superintendent of Schools, November 16, 1973)

School board endorses the conservation measures in effect. District has established an Immediate Conservation of Energy (I.C.E.) Committee, which includes representatives from all department and employee groups in the system, The County Council of PTAs, Student Advisory Council, County Recreation Department, and County Executive office. A contingency plan is being readied by the Committee at this time.

"Major changes in scheduling may be required this winter, and are under consideration."

Martinsville City School District, Martinsville, Virginia (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

As a result of the reduced allotment to gas companies, schools may have to switch to fuel oil heating on the coldest days of the year "so that other customers of the gas company who do not have alternate fuel supplies can be kept warm." This is not expected to be more than 10-15 days out of the winter, and schools feel they have a sufficient fuel oil supply.

Among the energy conservation measures taken by the district:

- reduced thermostats
- turned off heat in unused portions of the buildings, including gymnasiums
- reduced some interior and exterior lighting ("Schools Hike Lunches, Lower Heat," by Larry Dale Keeling, Martinsville, Virginia, Bulletin, November 13, 1973)

Norfolk City School District, Norfolk, Virginia (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

District has implemented these energy conservation steps:

- reduced thermostats
- reduced vehicle speeds
- encouraged car pools
- improved scheduling of deliveries

Superintendent has expressed to the school board its view that a four day school week or an extended Christmas vacation may not really save energy, would cause problems later in the year, and may not be educationally sound. ("No School Cutback By Fuel Shortage," by Gary Dalton, Norfolk, Va., Virginian Pilot, November 16, 1973)

WASHINGTON

State Superintendent of Public Instruction last July suggested the following:

- reduce field trips by 25 to 50 percent
- eliminate bus stops which were not one-half mile apart
- eliminate all weekend ski bus runs, some primary and kindergarten runs, and all out-of-state trips ("Schools Face Fuel Shortage," by Betsy Trainor, Walla Walla, Wash., Evening Union-Bulletin, November 16, 1973)

Seattle Public Schools, Seattle, Washington (NSBA Direct Affiliate. Information sent 11/27)

Uncertainty about possible cutbacks in busing services after the first of the year. (Busing services are contracted with two carriers.)

Since early summer the district has been engaged in efforts to reduce the consumption of electrical energy and other resources. The original goal of a 10 percent or greater reduction in utilities use has been reestablished at 20 percent, since, through September, the district achieved a 10 percent reduction in the use of electricity; an 11 percent reduction in water consumption; and a 15 percent reduction in the use of gasoline.

The district Committee for Conservation of Energy Resources is focusing its efforts upon:

- reducing utilities use
- providing educational programs in conservation
- cooperating with community-wide efforts to inform the public and implement conservation efforts

School Board supports the present administrative efforts, but no Board action is anticipated unless major changes in district policy become issues.

Walla Walla School District #140, Walla Walla, Washington (NSBA Direct Affiliate)

Lack of gasoline for school buses "may be a problem" in the near future. District is bracing itself for a possible gasoline shortage. Fuel used by the district is purchased this year on the contracts between the county government and a gasoline company. Previously, the supply was assured until January 1974. District has since been assured the schools will be able to make purchases on the county contracts after the first of the year.

Bus runs have been consolidated this year to the point that "not one more student could fit on our buses." Administrators have set priorities on field trips and extracurricular activities that require school transportation.

Committees established in each of the schools to recommend savings on electricity have been followed by similar committees to recommend savings on fuel. ("Schools Face Fuel Shortage," by Betsy Trainor, Walla Walla, Wash., Evening Union-Bulletin, November 16, 1973)

WEST VIRGINIA (Telephone interview 11/29)

The Governor of West Virginia expects no major problems or energy restrictions, since West Virginia is a major coal producing state.

The West Virginia School Boards Association is cooperating with the Governor's office, the state department of education, and other education groups in energy conservation measures.

WISCONSIN (Information sent 11/26)

State anticipates a 15 to 20 percent shortage of fuel oil. ("Wisconsin Fuel Oil Shortage is Severe," Chicago Tribune, December 1, 1973)

Suppliers are not entering bids, but are providing fuel equal to 1972-73 and on a current market price basis. "We are not aware of any school that has had to shut down, but we have had schools that have been very close."

Wisconsin Association of School Boards, Inc., along with the Department of Public Instruction, has been working closely with the state Emergency Energy Assistance Commissioner. WASB has recommended to local districts that they issue directives on conserving energy, and to keep extensive records of their energy conservation efforts. In Wisconsin, schools in emergency need of fuel will have higher priorities if they have a record of cooperation. The Association hopes to issue further detailed recommendations in cooperation with the Department of Public Instruction.

State Energy Commissioner has given schools "one of the highest priorities, and says, in fact, schools may be used as emergency housing in critical situations." As of November 23, schools ranked 11th on a list of 12 priority groups for the use of petroleum products.

WYOMING

Washakie County, School District No. 1, Worland, Wyoming (NSBA Direct Affiliate, Information sent 11/26)

The major problem to date is gasoline. "Our shortest activity trip is 30 miles, our average is 150 miles one way, and this definitely creates a fuel problem for returning vehicles."

Fuel conservation actions include:

- limiting school buses to 50 miles per hour
- lowering thermostats from 78° to 72°

Sources of the newspaper headlines pictured on the front cover of this report, from left to right:

Ludowici, Ga., News 11/13
Morganton, N.C., News Herald 11/15
Plattsmouth, Neb., Journal 11/15
Peoria, Ill., Morning Journal Star 11/20

Sources of the newspaper headlines pictured on the back cover of this report, from left to right:

Seymour, Iowa, Herald 11/15
Lafayette, Ind., Journal & Courier 11/20
Providence, R.I., Journal-Bulletin 11/17
Pueblo, Colo., Star-Journal 11/15
Arroyo Grande, Calif., Times-Press-Recorder 11/14
Manitowoc, Wisc., Herald-Times 11/21
Carthage, N.Y., Republican Tribune 11/15
Defiance, Ohio, Crescent-News 11/21
York, Pa., Dispatch 11/19
Somerset, Mass., Spectator 11/8
St. Joseph, Mich., Herald-Press 11/20